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Our Reference: MOR-223-A

FEB - 6 2001

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Hiroyuki TAKAHASHI and Kiyoe TAKAHASHI

Serial Number: 09/673,680

Filing Date: October 17, 2000

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International Appln No.: PCT/JP00/00943

FEB 2 2001

Examiner/Art Group Unit: Unknown/3749

TC 1700

Title: **THERMAL DECOMPOSITION APPARATUS FOR WASTES**

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

If any charges or fees must be paid in connection with the following communication, they may be paid out of our Deposit Account No. 25-0115.

Before initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the claims:

- 1 1. (Amended) A thermal decomposition apparatus for wastes comprising:
2 a heating chamber for heating the wastes;
3 an inlet port for introducing the wastes into said heating chamber;
4 at least one pair of electrodes provided within said heating chamber;
5 a light emitting heater consisting of a plurality of balls which contain
6 carbon as a main ingredient, said light emitting heater being provided between said at
7 least one pair of electrodes so as to produce an electric discharge when a voltage is
8 applied across said at least one pair of electrodes; and
9 an outlet port for discharging [out of said heating chamber]
10 substantially harmless gases [into which the wastes are thermally decomposed] out of
11 said heating chamber;

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